

(Mobile ebook) The Coldest War: A Memoir of Korea

## The Coldest War: A Memoir of Korea

Von James Brady

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"His story reads like a novel, but it is war reporting at its best—a graphic depiction, in all its horrors, of the war we've almost forgotten."—WALTER CRONKITE

# JAMES BRADY

A MEMOIR OF KOREA

## THE COLDEST WAR



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**Von James Brady : The Coldest War: A Memoir of Korea** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Coldest War: A Memoir of Korea:

KundenrezensionenHilfreichste Kundenrezensionen0 von 0 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. The Coldest WarVon Bud DeVereThe book is about one of the most miserable places in the world to wage a war. Korea in 1950 was unheard of by many Americans, but the U. S. Marines were sent there to help defend South Korea from the expected Chinese invasion. Those Marines will never consider the encounter a "Forgotten War." The terrain and weather made it far more treacherous than any of the island fighting in the south Pacific during World War II, and

some Marines who fought in both places claimed Korea was a nightmarish land dreamed up by the Devil to pit humans against each other. James Brady, a 23 year old second lieutenant when he landed in Korea as a platoon leader, aged quickly during his tour in combat. Being new to the Corps, he found some enlisted career-men were more knowledgeable than contemporary officers. He gives them all their due, but considers Captain John H. Chafee the real hero of the book. The personal hardships of Marines of all ranks on line, is interspersed with humor and horror, but the most memorable part of the book belongs to the adaptation of a green newcomer into a seasoned combat veteran. Brady has a talent for sniffing out the phonies and laying his bets with the soldiers of silent professionalism. "The Coldest War" tells it like only this distinguished writer could. Each page gets the reader into the feel of the unforgiving environment. The cold, the steep hills, the constant time in the front lines takes the reader into the uncomfortable setting of blood letting, death, and the terrible stench of the country. It's a book you won't soon forget.

0 von 0 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. One Marine's View of the Early Cold War Von Steven S. Berizzi James Brady, *The Coldest War: A Memoir of Korea* (1990, New York: Thomas Dunne Books, St. Martin's Griffin edn., 2000) This is a splendid little book about what one American statesman characterized, quite accurately, as "a sour little war." The reasons are clear. With the possible exception of the Falkland Islands War, no other conflict in the second half of the 20th century was fought over ground as consistently inhospitable as the three-year struggle in barren, frigid Korea. Author James Brady, who served as a Marine lieutenant there, describes the essence of the problem early in the book: "Hard enough fighting a war; in Korea, the cold could kill you." And he invokes the horrors of combat in the First World War and the Civil War when he makes this point: "In some ways, it wasn't a modern war at all, more like Flanders or the Somme or even the Wilderness campaign." Brady is a wonderful writer and creates marvelous word pictures of the war. Many operations took place after dark, and he writes: "The grenade, the knife, the shotgun, even the shovel and the axe were the weapons of night patrols." Brady also offers telling observations about matters important and trivial, including fearing the night as shells roared out "very low and directly overhead," feeling chagrined when he could not answer a colonel's question about the location of two machine guns which he commanded, using a wooden ammunition box as a toilet, urinating on his rifle to thaw it for firing, not changing underwear for 46 days while "on the line, living in holes," and subsisting for weeks at a time on c-rations. Nevertheless, according to Brady: "There was a purity about life on the line, a crude priesthood of combat." And he also remarks: "When you weren't fighting, the war was pretty good." Readers may be offended by some of Brady's recollection, including the incessant references to Koreans as "gooks" (except when he visits a village and addresses the inhabitants as "our Korean brothers"): The Korean bearers who deliver supplies to the line are known by everyone as the "gook train," and the universal eating utensil manufactured from a shell casing is known as a "gook spoon." Chinese soldiers always are "chinks." However, I found Brady's honesty engaging, even when it was politically incorrect. Brady's memoir is remarkably free of rancor, and, in fact, he appears to have respected his adversaries. Brady reports that some of the one million Chinese engaged in the war had been fighting continuously since the mid-1930s, first against the Japanese, then amongst themselves in the civil war which preceded the victory of Mao Zedong's Communists, and finally against the Republic of Korea, the United States, and their Allies. Nevertheless, Brady saves his highest accolades for his own First Marine Division, which he characterizes, without false modesty, as being "as powerful an infantry division as there had ever been in combat anywhere." Brady saves some of his most wry observations for superior officers, but he had unbridled admiration for his company commander Captain John Chafee, a graduate of Yale and Harvard Law School, who later was elected governor of Rhode Island and then had a distinguished career in the U.S. Senate. This book is not about grand strategy, national policy, or the geopolitics of the early Cold War. It provides a very narrow view of the Korean War. But, taken on its own terms, as the account of one Marine officer's experience, it is excellent.

0 von 0 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. A Seductive Absorbing Description Of Life On The Ground! Von Barron Laycock For anyone interested in learning more about the human experience of war, this is an unforgettable book. Expecting to avoid the futility of the draft by joining the Marine Corps right out of college, the author finds himself a young officer in Korea as a field officer commanding a rifle platoon. This memoir details what it is like to be a young, inexperienced, and frightened soldier on the ground when all Hell breaks loose. Like many of his generation, Brady discovers that time spent in trenches between episodes in combat are quite as burdensome as the firefights themselves, with too much time, too little comfort, and endless seas of ceaseless rain, snow, mud, and exposure to the elements for the uninitiated to wallow in. Brady's account of the rapid education a naive and untried young officer has to learn and accomplish to stay alive and in command as the fight erupts, evolves, and subsides. His description of the day-to-day experience of war in Korea is quite evocative, and he succeeds in spinning a very readable and entertaining introduction to the realities of life as a foot soldier. Defense of fixed-line trenches in a deadly barrage of enemy artillery is absolutely terrifying to the young marines, as are the long still nights, filled with a deceptive calm. The quick-changing extremes in Korean weather often provided additional challenges to the young marines, and he explains how the combination of sustained periods of cold with an eerie pregnant silence sometimes lulled the troopers into sometimes-deadly states of inattention. If war can be described as long periods of boredom punctuated by sudden explosions of murder and mayhem, then this book is a deadly accurate portrayal of the experience of war. Too many of our contemporary citizens lack an understanding of the extreme nature

of the experience of combat, and that periods of actual combat are usually short and staccato experiences that come with absolute surprise and subside just as suddenly. As important in understanding the enormity of the experience of war are the other elements; loneliness, boredom, and exposure to the elements. Under the most difficult of circumstances, ordinary human beings are called upon to make the most solemn and extreme sacrifices, and this book details the terrifying context in which all this unfolded in Korea better than anything else I have read on the subject. I heartily recommend this book, and hope it will be widely read.

Kurzbeschreibung America's "forgotten war" lasted just thirty-seven months, yet 54,246 Americans died in that time -- nearly as many as died in ten years in Vietnam. On the fiftieth anniversary of this devastating conflict, James Brady tells the story of his life as a young marine lieutenant in Korea. In 1947, seeking to avoid the draft, nineteen-year-old Jim Brady volunteered for a Marine Corps program that made him a lieutenant in the reserves on the day he graduated college. He didn't plan to find himself in command of a rifle platoon three years later facing a real enemy, but that is exactly what happened after the Chinese turned a so-called police action into a war. The Coldest War vividly describes Brady's rapid education in the realities of war and the pressures of command. Opportunities for bold offensives sink in the miasma of trench warfare; death comes in fits and starts as too-accurate artillery on both sides seeks out men in their bunkers; constant alertness is crucial for survival, while brutal cold and a seductive silence conspire to lull soldiers into an often fatal stupor. The Korean War affected the lives of all Americans, yet is little known beyond the antics of "M\*A\*S\*H." Here is the inside story that deserves to be told, and James Brady is a powerful witness to a vital chapter of our history.

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